

ADVERTISE!

The Best Medium for  
Advertising  
in the Colony is  
THE 'CHINA MAIL'

THE POPULAR AND LEADING PAPER

No. 11,608.

# The China Mail.

ESTABLISHED 1845.

號五廿月五年百九千一英

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, MAY 25, 1900.

日廿月四年子庚

PRICE, \$2.50 Per Month.

## PRINTING

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION  
Promptly, Neatly, &  
Cheaply Executed  
AT THE  
'China Mail Office,'  
5 WYNDHAM STREET.

Business Notices.

W. S. BAILEY & CO.,

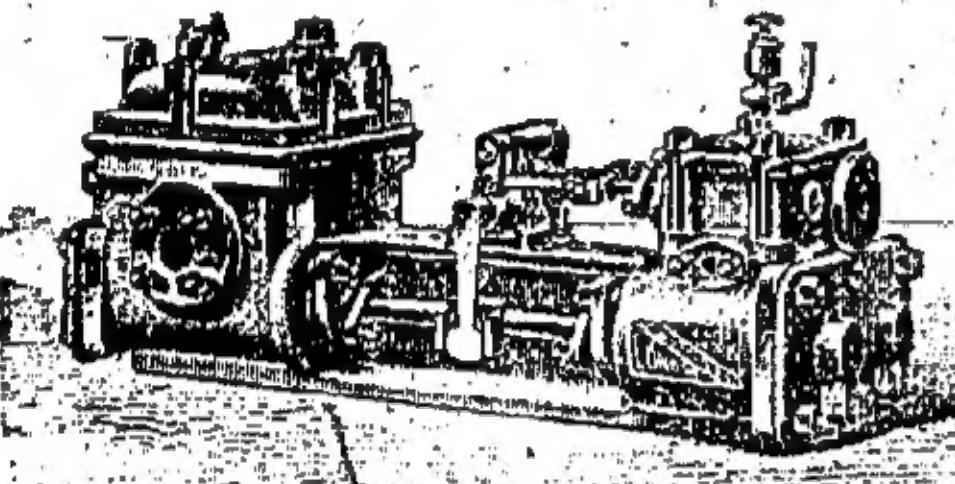
17, PRAYA CENTRAL.

Engineers and General Merchants

SOLE AGENTS FOR CARTER'S DISINTEGRATORS FOR

GRINDING BARK, BEAN CAKE, SANDALWOOD, CORN,  
Etc., Etc., Etc.

AMERICAN DRILLING MACHINES FOR HAND OR POWER  
DUPLEX AND DIRECT ACTING PUMPS FOR EVERY SERVICE  
SHIPS TELEGRAPHS, SPECIAL SIZES FOR  
LAUNCHES.



CHAMPION FORGES. LUBRICATORS.  
INJECTORS. EJECTORS.  
ENGINE OILS & SOLIDIFIED LUBRICANT.  
ENGINE AND BOILER MOUNTINGS.  
ASBESTOS AND PUMP PACKINGS.  
GENERAL STORES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

THE

Peak Hotel.

CITY OFFICE,  
7, DUDDELL STREET.

HOTEL CRAIGIEBURN.

CENTRALLY Situated at PLUNKETT'S  
GAP, THE PEAK. 1,600 feet  
above Sea Level and 500 yards from Tran-  
senninns. For Terms, &c.,  
Apply to the MANAGER.  
Telephone No. 56. 741

KWONG SANG YUEN & CO.,  
MAKERS OF  
MANILA CIGARS.

ONLY the best Leaves, selected by our  
special Representative in the Philippines, are used in the Manufacture of these  
Cigars.

Samples and Prices, post free, on Appli-  
cation. Inspection cordially invited.

Factory—No. 12, Station Street North,

804 Tsimshai, Hongkong.

NOTICE.

HUMPHREYS' ESTATE AND  
FINANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE CERTIFICATE No. 2,836, dated  
1st January, 1900, of the Shares  
numbered 10,201 to 10,259 in this Com-  
pany, standing in the name of Mr. JAY  
BUTT, of Yokohama, has been LOST,  
and if at the expiration of One month from  
the date hereof, the above document be  
not forthcoming, another Certificate will  
be issued by the Company, and thereafter  
no other will be acknowledged.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,  
Governing Directors.

Hongkong, May 12, 1900. 1099

NOTICE.

YOUNG AMERICAN, possessing  
Automatic Power Loom, please  
advise, for weaving matting, desire to  
correspond with PRINCIPALS and  
GROWERS of GRASSES for establishing  
plant—State full particulars money  
required, how divided, inducements  
Answers confidential.—CHAUNCEY H. GOOD-  
WIN, Worcester, Mass., U.S.A.  
Hongkong, May 17, 1900. 1146

DOOLITTLE & AND FOLLOCK,  
COMMISSION AGENTS,  
60, LYNDHURST TERRACE,  
HONGKONG.

AGENTS FOR ARMOUR PARKING COMPANY.  
Hongkong, May 7, 1900. 1058

WANTED.

PASSAGE to COLOMBO or SINGA-  
PORE for CINGALESE Attendant.  
Kindly quote terms to  
W. C. BARLOW,  
Queen's College,  
Hongkong, May 18, 1900. 1153

HUNG TAI.

GENERAL STORE KEEPER,  
AND  
SUPPLIER OF COAL  
FOR HOUSE PURPOSES, AND ALSO  
CIGARS AND CIGARETTES,  
TOBACCO.

No. 13, Elgin Road,

KOWLOON.

Hongkong, May 16, 1900. 1155

SWEETS! SWEETS! SWEETS!

CADBURY'S CHOCOLATE CREAMS,  
ALMONDS,  
MACAROONS,  
BUTTER SCOTCH, TOFFEES, AL-  
MOND ROCK, Etc.  
H. RUTTENBERG,  
5, D'Angier Street,  
23 and 25, High Road, Kowloon,  
Hongkong, May 4, 1900. 1028

Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.



GRANDS OF HIGHEST CLASS,  
BECHSTEIN, PLEYEL,  
COLLARD, RACHALS.  
HIRE AND TIME PAYMENT ACCEPTED.  
MAGNIFICENT NEW HAAKE PIANOS.  
16 JUST ARRIVED.

PHILIP W. HEYMAN'S  
CHOICEST DANISH  
Grass Butter.

IN 1 AND 2 LB. PATENT TINS.

INCOMPARABLE!

TO BE HAD AT ALL RETAIL STORES.

Apply to

A. BERG,

No. 1, Queen's Buildings.

Hongkong, May 23, 1900. 1180

THE HONGKONG LAND INVEST-  
MENT AND AGENCY COMPANY,  
LIMITED.

NOTICE—is hereby given that at a  
MEETING of the Board of Directors  
of the above Company, held at the  
Registered Office of the Company, Queen's  
Road Central, Victoria, Hongkong, on  
Tuesday, the Twenty-Seventh day of March  
1900, the following resolutions were  
passed:

1. That in pursuance of the provisions  
of the Special Regulation passed at  
an Extraordinary General Meeting  
of the Company held on the 7th  
and confirmed on the 27th March  
instant, and since duly registered,  
the sum of \$1,250,000 was withdrawn  
from the Reserve Fund and be carried  
over as the 2nd July next, to the Credit of Capital Account,  
each share being credited with a  
sum of \$25 as paid up thereon in  
addition to the sum of \$5 now  
standing to the credit of each share.

2. That the balance of \$25 per share  
of the Capital of the Company  
be called up, and that it be  
done upon all the shares of the  
Company, and that the Share  
holders be requested to pay the  
sum to the Company's Bankers,  
the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking  
Company, at their premises,  
Queen's Road Central, Victoria, before  
the 2nd day of July A. D. 1900.

Shareholders are hereby requested to pay  
accordingly.

An Notice is also given that, in accordance  
with Article 34 of the Company's  
Articles of Association, interest will be  
charged on the 2nd day of July  
1900, at the rate of \$1.20 per centum per  
annum upon all Calls remaining unpaid  
after the 9th day of July 1900, up to the  
actual date of payment of the same.

By Order of the Board.

A. SHELTON HOOPER,  
Secretary.

Hongkong, March 27, 1900. 702

KIRIN.

A Delicate  
Lager.

THE CELEBRATED BEER OF  
JAPAN.

QUARTS, \$2.00 per dozen.  
PINTS, \$1.75 do.

W. HUTTON POTTS,  
Sole Agent for Hongkong.

NOTICE.

I HAVE this Day REMOVED my  
Residence from No. 65, Praya East  
to No. 7, Leighton Hill Road.

L. MALLORY.

Hongkong, May 16, 1900. 1143

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

I HAVE this Day REMOVED my  
Residence from No. 65, Praya East  
to No. 7, Leighton Hill Road.

L. MALLORY.

Hongkong, May 16, 1900. 1143

NOTICE.

CANTON ELECTRIC LIGHTING AND  
FIRE EXTINGUISHING CO.,  
LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given that an EX-  
TRAORDINARY GENERAL  
MEETING of the Canton Electric Light-  
ing and Fire Extinguishing Company  
Limited, will be held at the Company's  
Office, No. 9, Praya Central, Victoria,  
Hongkong, on SATURDAY, the 25th day  
of May, 1900, at 12 o'clock Noon, when  
the aforesaid Resolution which was passed  
at the Extraordinary General Meeting  
of the Company held on the 9th day of May  
1900, will be submitted for confirmation as  
a Special Resolution.

The Company will be wound up volun-  
tarily and that LI YUK TONG of Victoria,  
Hongkong, one of the Managers of the Com-  
pany, and he is hereby appointed Liquidator  
for the purpose of such winding up.

Dated 10th May, 1900.

By Order of the Board.

LI YUK TONG,  
LIAO FUH SHU.

HONGKONG.

EYE-SIGHT.

NOTICE.

I am continuing my sight-testing Rooms  
in Hongkong (at W. BREWER &  
Co.) which during my absence will be in  
charge of M. Malverne Phay, a Re-  
spected Optician, member of the  
Institute of Opticians, and his  
assistant in the Far East is kept here and  
any kind of ordinary or special lenses can  
be obtained.

REPAIRS & SPECIALITY. 1163

BELL'S ASBESTOS EASTERN AGENCY, LIMITED.

4, PRAYA CENTRAL.

NEAR THE ENGINEERS' INSTITUTE.

PACKING OF EVERY DESCRIPTION;  
BOILER COMPOSITION,  
ENGINE AND OTHER OILS,  
ALWAYS KEPT IN STOCK.  
ALL ARTICLES OF FIRST-CLASS QUALITY.

1027  
BRADLEY & Co., Managers.  
JOHN BROWNHILL, Superintendent.



FOR THE HOT WEATHER

SOFT-FRONTED COLORED SHIRTS,

very THIN and COOL.

HOSIERY & UNDERWEAR, BATHING  
COSTUMES, DRAWERS, &c.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

G. H. MUMM & CO.'S

EXTRA DRY

CHAMPAGNE, ORGANS --

Business Notices.

THE SUMMER HAS COME

AND SO HAVE

Watkins' Aerated Waters.

But the latter have come to stay.

OUR

SODA, POTASH, TONIC, RASPBERRYADE,  
SARSAPARILLA, LEMON-SQUASH, SELTZER, LITHIA,  
SANTHARIS, LEMONADE, BELFAST GINGER-ALE,  
ZOEDONE, AND GINGER BEER

are second to none. Our machinery being of the very newest  
design we are enabled to turn out the best article.

Watkins Limited.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

Portland Cement.

\$4.50 per Cask of 375 lb. net ex Factory.  
\$2.80 per Bag of 250 lb. net ex Factory.

FACTORIES—HONGKONG AND MACAO.

Glazed Stoneware, Drain Pipes and Fittings, Glazed  
Paving Bricks and Tiles, Fire Bricks and Fire Clay.

FIRE CLAY WORKS—DEEP WATER BAY, HONGKONG.

For further particulars, apply to

Shewan, Tomes & Co.,

GENERAL AGENTS.

2335

A New consignment of American and  
Japanese ORGANS.

PRICES: \$30 to \$400,  
MONTHLY PAYMENT ACCEPTED.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.,  
MUSICAL DEPARTMENT.

THE HONGKONG HOTEL.

A FIRST-CLASS HOTEL, PROVIDED WITH EVERY COMFORT.  
NEWLY-FURNISHED ROOMS.

TWO ELEVATORS.

NEW REFRIGERATING PLANT.

BEST QUALITY LIQUORS & PROVISIONS.

2106

COTTAM & Co.,

FOR THE APPROACHING SUMMER, JUST ARRIVED

A NEW STOCK OF

CELLULAR SHIRTS, PRINT SOFT-FRONTED SHIRTS,

AND

WASHING TIES, Etc., Etc.

713

AQUARIUS

(Pure, Triple Distilled Water only used).

## Entertainment.

THEATRE ROYAL.

CITY HALL.

SATURDAY, 26th May.

GRAND FAREWELL BENEFIT CONCERT

of

MISS MURIEL ALLEYNE, (Lady of the Deller Musical &amp; Dramatic Co.)

Kindly Assisted by

MR. ALEX MARSH,

Band of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers (By kind Permission).

Lieut. F. J. WAWRYN R.W.E.,

Mr. C. H. LAMMERT,

Mr. A. DE GRACIA,

Mr. J. H. MOIR R.W.E.,

Mr. A. G. WARD,

Mr. E. DASHERED,

and others.

Commenes at 8 o'clock.

Prices of Admission, \$3, \$2, \$1.

Phonak ROBINSON LTD.

J. HERVEY LONGHURST,

Business Manager.

Hongkong, May 23, 1900. 1185

Auctions.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions to Sell by PUBLIC AUCTION, on

MONDAY, May 26, 1900, at 2.30 p.m., at No.

3, Bellairs Terrace.—

(The Residence of D. WARREN SMITH, Esq.)

THE WHOLE OF THE

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,

Comprising:—

TAPESTRY-COVERED CHAIRS, MARBLE-MADE OVERMANTELS AND CONSOL TABLES, TABLES, BLACKWOOD STANDS, BRAZED FENDER, CLOCKS, TAPESTRIES AND LACE CURTAINS, OIL-PAINTED AND ENGRAVED SATINWOOD AND CLOTHED VASES, ETC., ETC.

TEA SETS, SILVER, SILVER MUGS, EXTENSIVE DINNER TABLES, MUSCOVY-COVERED CHAIRS AND CLOTHED VASES, CUTLERY, SILVER, FAIRFORDWARE, ETC., ETC.

IRON, PEDESTALS, TIN, WASHBINS, MARSHAL-TOP WASHBINS, TOILET TABLES, BODKINS, CHINTZ OF DRAWERS, CARPETS, RUGS, ETC., ETC.

Also:

A COTTAGE PLAIN, in good condition. On view from Saturday, the 26th May. Catalogue will be issued.

Tender—As Customary.

GEO. P. LAMMERT,

Auctioneer.

Hongkong, May 23, 1900. 1185

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

No. 240.

THE following Particulars and Conditions of SALE of CROWN LAND by PUBLIC AUCTION, to be held at the Offices of the Public Works Department, on MONDAY, the 25th day of May, 1900, at 3 p.m., are published for general information, By Command,

F. H. MAY,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

Hongkong, 12th May, 1900. 1182

Particulars and Conditions of the Letting by Public Auction Sale, to be held on Monday, the 25th day of May, 1900, at 3 p.m., at the Offices of the Public Works Department, by Order of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, of Six Lots of Crown Land, &amp; Mong Kok Tsui, Kowloon, in the Colony of Hongkong, for a term of 75 years, with the option of renewal at a Crown Rent to be fixed by the Surveyor of Her Majesty the Queen, for one further term of 70 years.

Particulars of the Lots.

No. 1676, 1677, 1678, 1679, 1680, 1681.

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## LOCAL AND GENERAL

## Notes by the Way.

The delivery of the English Mail was begun at 11.30 a.m. to-day.

The Legislative Council meets on Monday afternoon at three o'clock.

The French Mail of the 23rd April was delivered in London on the 22nd May.

The International Football Match at Singapore, Scotland v. England, played on May 15, ended in a draw—one goal each.

Macao, Kobe and Osaka are declared infected ports, by telegram from the Commissioner of Customs at Shanghai, received in Hongkong on the 23rd inst.

The return of plague cases up to noon on the 25th May showed that twelve fresh cases and five deaths occurred during the preceding 48 hours.

The second non-conference steamer *J. W. Taylor* sailed from Singapore for London on 16th May with a full cargo, having indeed shut out several hundred tons for lack of room.

An affecting scene was witnessed at the P. & O. Jetty, Woosung, on May 20, when a large assemblage of friends bid farewell to Lady and Miss Hamon, who left for home by the *Empress of Japan*.

The final tie for the English Association Football Cup, played at the Crystal Palace on April 21, between Bury and Southampton, resulted in a win for the former by 4 goals to 0. About 80,000 people witnessed the game.

The annual report on the health and sanitary condition of the Army, notes that in China there was a marked decline in malarial fevers. Plague, which was epidemic among the civil population, only caused eight admissions and one death among the troops.

The following notification appears in the *Gazette*:—The Hongkong Regiment,—Suffolk Sardar Khan to be Subadar Major, vice Firoz Khan, retired; Jemadar Jan Muhammad to be Subadar, vice Sardar Khan; Pay Havildar Fateh Muhammad to be Jemadar, vice Jan Muhammad.

A report showing the progress of bubonic plague at Tainan was submitted at the meeting of the Sanitary Board, this afternoon, and in view of the figures shown, Mr. McKinnon moved that all vessels arriving from any port in the island of Formosa should be ordered into quarantine for inspection. The M. O. H. agrees with this opinion.

**Proposed Assistant to the M.O.H.**  
At the meeting of the Sanitary Board, this afternoon, Mr. E. Osborne, pursuant to notice moved: 'That the Sanitary Board (unanimously) of opinion that an assistant Medical Officer of Health is urgently needed, as the duties and responsibilities of the Department are more than one medical man can be reasonably expected to undertake.'

**River Gunboats.**  
A correspondent of the *L. and C. Express* learns from an excellent source that there is a proposal before the Admiralty to construct or to have constructed at Hongkong three or four shallow-draught gun-boats for the patrolling of the upper reaches of the leading Chinese rivers. As to the necessity for more vessels of this kind there appears no doubt; while it is thought that, if they were built at Hongkong, the utility of that place as a good naval base might be proved, and an economy effected.

**The Relief of Mafeking.**  
On May 20, when the news of the relief of Mafeking was announced on board H.M.S. *Hornbeam* at Shanghai, all hands were mustered and Lieut. Goodenough communicated the glad tidings of the relief of the besieged city. The ship's band played 'Rule Britannia,' 'God save the Queen,' and 'God Bless the Prince of Wales.' Lieut. Goodenough addressed a few suitable words to the men, assuring them that their cheers were heard in spirit, if not in the city. The *Rewie* carries two guns—64-lb. and 4.3-pounder quick-fires, and has a complement of 104 officers and men.

## Report on Overcrowding.

At the meeting of the Sanitary Board, to-day, Dr Clark submitted the following preliminary report on overcrowding in the City of Victoria, viz.—'I have the honour to report that on 31st March last, there were only 75 vacant houses in the City of Victoria. A night inspection has been made in No. 7 Health District, where the greatest number of vacant houses were to be found, and 258 have been visited between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. The total number of persons that may legally occupy these houses is found to be 3724 and the actual number of persons sleeping there was found to be 2430. A small amount of overcrowding of individual houses was detected; thus, in one Common Lodging-house there was an excess of two persons over the legal limit; in one other house there was an excess of 9 persons, and in three other houses an excess of 8 persons. Legal notices have been served in these instances to abate the overcrowding. It is interesting to note that the houses coincide almost exactly with the tabular report drawn up by me, last year, and which was based on the estimate of population of the City of Victoria. This table gave 8.6 persons per occupied floor, and the figures obtained by these night visits give 8.5 persons per floor.'

The natural disgust created by Cod Liver Oil or its Emulsion invariably affects the good accomplished. Not so with *Stearns' Wine of Cod Liver Oil*.

Palatable, easily taken, the patient of one experiences the beneficial effects. Wholesale and Retail from A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd., Hongkong.

## Plague on the 'Coromandel.'

The P. & O. S. N. Company's steamer 'Coromandel,' carrying the mails to Europe, was detained in quarantine this morning in view of two cases of plague having developed on board. It seems that two of the European crew are affected, namely, the bairman and head waiter. The 'Coromandel' will leave to-morrow at 6 p.m.

## Hongkong Hotel.

The band of the Hongkong Regiment will play at the Hongkong Hotel to-morrow (Saturday) evening, from 8 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. The following will be the programme:—

March—Under the Double Eight—Wagner. Overture—'Eight Cavalry'—Suppé. Selection—'Reminiscences of Scotland'—Golfray. Value—'Soiro las Oles'—Rosas. Fantasia—'Canadian Air'—Barwood. Polka—'Bella'—Gran. 'God Save the Queen.'

## Lime-washing Ordinance—Wholesale Prosecutions.

The fortnightly return of lime-washing in the City submitted at the meeting of the Sanitary Board, this afternoon, shows a total of 56 prosecutions for non-compliance with the ordinance and £301 in fines imposed. The report goes on to say that 'there are still a large number of summonses to be heard during the next few days, probably about 230. In addition to these there have been to date in connection with Kowloon property 58 prosecutions, resulting in fines to the amount of £380 being inflicted.'

## Mortality Statistics.

The mortality statistics of the Colony for the week ended 5th May show a remarkably low death-rate in the British and foreign Civil Community of 5.7 as against 23.3 for the corresponding period of last year. The Chinese land and boat population gives a death-rate of 24.5 as against 30.7 for the corresponding month last year. Over the whole population of 257,000, excluding the Army and Navy, the rate is 23.8 as against 24.0. During the week ended 12th May the death-rate among the British and foreign Civil Community was 25.5 as against 21.1 last year. Over the whole Colony it was 31.7 as against 33.5 last year.

## R. W. F. Band.

The following programme of music will be played by the band of the Royal Welsh Fodders at the Officers' Mess, Murray Barracks, to-night, commencing at 8 p.m.:—March—'Grand Imperiale', 1st Home Overture—'Les Deux Magots', 'Bouillotte Selection'; 'Pauw up to Date'; Jones Value—'Baby'; 'Jazzone'—'Broken Melody'; Van Bieke Selection—'London night by'—Williams Eight—'EXTRAS': Gavotte—'Theodora'—'Le Thiere'; Value—'L'Etoile Polisse'—'Waldehyde Dance'; 'Darke's Frolic'—Waldehyde J. H. Moir—Band Master.

## Share List.

The following allocations in our share list are noted after the hour of correction: Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, 325 £-shares; China Traders', 554, buyers; National Bank, 827; China Traders', 554, buyers; North-China Tls., 165, sales; Union, 820; buyers; Yangtze, 821, sellers; China First, 879, sellers; Dock, 485 £-shares; Inde-China, 801, buyers; Star, 818, ex-div.; China Sugar, 8126; Luzon Sugar, 826, sales; Wan-chai Warehouse, 864, buyers; Hongkong Land, 825, buyers; West Point Building, 848, sellers; Union, 825, sellers, and Preference, 810, sales; Charbournes, 830, sellers; Queen's, 15 cents, buyers; Ruby, 860, sellers; Olivers, B, 821; Hongkong Hotel, \$119, buyers; Hongkong Electric, 812, sellers; Green Island, 825, sellers; United Asbestos, 828; Soi Chee Cotton, Tls., 375; China Prudential Loan, 89.00 sellers; and China Borneo, 823.

## Charlie's Reforms.

Writing from Malta, a naval officer with Lord Charles Beresford informs a correspondent that the admiral is practically revolutionising the conduct of the Mediterranean Squadron. The greatest attention is being paid to accuracy of fire, with large guns and rifles, at all sorts of novel targets, and Lord Charles is initiating and taking part in gunnery debates on all matters likely to quicken the intelligence of his officers and men.

## The Lesson of the War.

The war is making it plain that man may be his own most excellent polo-player, cricketer, fencer, brave and energetic even to a fault, and yet be military disaster. Too many of them have never realised that their position exists from an intelligent and active attention to their military training and duties and an intelligent study of the conditions and developments of modern warfare. An English Artillery officer in the Army Medical corps, who fails to master the principles and thus to keep himself acquainted with all the latest technical and scientific development in his particular profession—soon finds himself shouldered aside by more energetic men, and shamed as quickly as possible by intelligent superiors. In those Services the military officer finds no very comfortable resting-place. In the other branches of the Service such men occur too often. They are, many of them, dandies of society and the despair of their chiefs. They either do not care, so long as they can masquerade as soldiers, or they cherish the delusion that courage will transform the military dilettante into an effective campaigner. One of the earliest results of this war, we judge by the tone and temper of all sorts of society, will be a resolute effort to make the calling of an officer in the Army a serious and practical business.

Stearns' Headache Cure is widely imitated. Inset on having STEARNS', the original and safest remedy for giving instant relief. Wholesale and Retail from A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd., Hongkong.

## The Navy League.

The Hongkong branch of the Navy League has remitted home the sum of £40 sterling in aid of those on service in South Africa or their families, being the equivalent of £602 collected from members and associates of the branch.

## TO-DAY'S TELEGRAMS

## CHINA MAIL'S SPECIAL SERVICE

## DR. HARSTON'S CRITICISMS.

## REPLY OF THE M. O. H.

At the meeting of the Sanitary Board this afternoon, the following was submitted:

Bunk Buildings, May 10, 1900.

Dear Mr. Woodcock,

In reply to yours of May 9, the cases of plague occurring during lime-washing which I had in my mind when writing my letter of May 7th, are two in number, the more striking of the two being the case of Ouki Nakamura, landlady of No. 11 Gago Street.

In this case the patient while moving various articles of furniture preparatory to lime-washing and with a view to discovering the cause of a bad smell, came across two dead rats. Three days later the man exhibited symptoms of plague, and the initial

## THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

Yesterday was observed as a general holiday in the Colony, the occasion being the eighty-first birthday of Queen Victoria.

Queen's weather prevailed throughout the day and the short respite from business worry was much appreciated. The gun-of-war in the harbour, as well as the majority of the merchant ships, dressed for the occasion, while the Royal Standard was to be seen floating from Government House, Headquarters House, and H.M.S. *Thunder*.

At noon the men-of-war fired Royal salutes. A review of the garrison troops

was held, as in former years, in the afternoon at Happy Valley. Notwithstanding

that the Volunteers did not take part

in the parade this year, the proceedings

were as interesting as ever, and were

more eagerly followed by a large assem-

bly of onlookers. At five o'clock

the other case I had in my mind, was

that of Maria Lee, whom I visited on May

31st—1899 at the St. Francis' Home, Wan-chai.

It has since come to my knowledge that

quite recently the horses in Holy Infan-

try were lime-washed. I am given to unde-

rstand that there were no cases of plague

previous to lime-washing. Since then I

learn there have been several in this house.

Wherein is the benefit of lime-washing during an epidemic of plague?

Enclosing a notification of a case of

plague which occurred to-day in the same

house.

I beg to remain, yours truly,

G. MONTAUK HARSTON.

DR. CLARKE'S REPLY.

I think that much of the Board's time

will be saved if I discuss Dr. Harston's letter in a minute now, instead of awaiting

our next meeting.

In the first place, I believe the Board to consider that the said letter is a criticism on a theory, merely, and that any such theory must be examined in the light of facts and not accepted as a working hypothesis until the facts have been clearly demonstrated.

To consider therefore the premises upon which this theory is based by its advocate, we must return to the facts of the case of Plague cited, both occurring twelve months ago, although there have been some 180 cases to date.

In one of these the discovery of a couple of rats dead of Plague is admitted to have been the exciting cause of the disease. When then is the connection between the lime-washing and the disease? Are we to assume that dead rats are only discovered upon domestic premises as a result of the bi-annual cleaning and lime-washing, and granting that this is dispensed with during epidemics, are such dead rats to be allowed to remain upon the premises to pollute the air with the vapours of decomposition, lest their removal may excite an attack of plague in a person who handles them carelessly? Surely this case does not greatly strengthen this theory.

The other case may perhaps have been of a similar nature, but the facts given are so bold that it seems to me impossible to make any deduction from them. However, the main plank upon which this theory seems to rest is that the cleaning and lime-washing of the Wan-chai Health District took place during January and February of this year and that immediately following this we had an outbreak of Plague in that district.

In the first place let me point out that the cleaning and lime-washing of that district took place in precisely the same months last year, and yet only 13 cases of Plague occurred in that district during the months of January and February of this year and that immediately following this we had an outbreak of Plague in that district.

So much for generalities, but I have looked much more closely into this matter, and I attach hereto a list of all cases of Plague which have occurred to date in the Wan-chai District, and in the table will be found the date of the cleaning and lime-washing of these houses. These dates are the ones on which notice of intention to do the work was given by the contractors, and the great majority were done within three or four days of these dates, but even so we allow ten days as the extreme limit and another ten days for the incubation of the disease we have an interval of (say) three weeks as the maximum interval between the work of cleaning and the occurrence of cases of Plague.

An examination of the table will show that out of the 90 cases detailed therein, there is such an interval only in one case. In all the others the cases of plague either occurred before, or during, or after the lime-washing or at such a long interval afterwards that no medical man would contend that the cleaning bore any causal relationship to the outbreak of the disease.

In the face of these facts, I fail to see how such a theory can be maintained.

Several months are attacked by members of the Board, the most important of which is by Dr. Harston. He says, 'I cannot see with Mr. Mekin that facts support Dr. Harston's argument. It seems to me that the facts cited by Dr. Clark disprove

the following minutes were attached to Dr. Harston's first letter published a fortnight ago, viz.—

Mr. McKie—Facts support Dr. Harston's argument.

Mr. Chan A Fook—I am in favour of antiseptic cleaning during an epidemic, such cleaning should be done by the Government and at its expense.

Mr. E. Osborne—Dr. Harston's contention should receive the Board's immediate attention and mischief arrested at once if what he says is true.

Dr. Lowson, Principal Civil Medical Officer—There is a lot of truth in what Dr. Harston says, but it is only one link in the chain that wants strengthening.

I pass this locality daily on my way to business, and, if, passing-by, notice that offensive smell, much more so than who inhabit the houses around. From what I can gather, written application has been made to the Board for a Sanitary Department to clean these houses, but the answer is still in abeyance.

The Health and Vigor of an individual depend upon the quantity and quality of the food he eats. When the tissues have been at work, there are thrown into the blood waste products, and if these are not eliminated but through the kidneys, the body becomes weak and feeble.

The Chinese have a saying, 'A man who eats well, lives well.' The Chinese have a saying, 'A man who eats well, lives well.'

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